(b) Augmentation and modernisation of technical facilities for production of TV programmes is a continuous process. Several schemes have been included in the VII Plan of Doordarshan for this purpose. As per requirements, staff is also sanctioned.

Low ratings of Hindi programmes of Doordarshan

1664. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the Hindi programme telecast over Doordarshan have very low ratings in Eastern and the Southern India;

(b) whether Government propose to strengthen regional centres to provide more popular programmes over Doordarshan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) It is not a fact that most of the Hindi programmes have a very low viewing in Eastern and Southern India.

(b) and (c) All full-fledged Doordarshan Kendras already put out programmes mainly in the respective languages of the region for a duration of about three hours daily. Production facilities are also being gradually increased at the Regional Kendras. They also undertake production of serials in the regional languages.

Construction of roads by Border Roads Organisation in Sikkim

1665. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Border Roads Organisation in Sikkim has not been able to do the work satisfactorily due to shortage of funds and manpower; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of budget allocations of NH31-A and all the roads under Border Roads Organisations including the North Sikkim Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Study into Environmental Pollution around Nepa Nagar Paper Industry

1666. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken to find out the level of environmental pollution in and around Nepa Nagar in Madhya Pradesh caused by the presence of Mercury which is used in the Paper Industry;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the study; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to undertake such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) No specific study has been undertaken in this regard. However, investigations were made to ascertain the quantity of mercury in the effluent from the industry. According to the investigations, prior to installation of the treatment plant, the levels of mercury were above the prescribed standard. The effluent treatment plant has since been commissioned.